

# The Evening World

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## STOP THESE SPEEDERS!

It was fortunate indeed that no one was killed in the accident on Fourth Avenue, Brooklyn, last night in which one of the big sightseeing cars, homeward-bound from Coney Island, swerved to avoid a collision and sidwiped a wire fence, injuring five passengers.

This good fortune should point a warning. The wild, devil-may-care driving, skillful though it be, of these speeding sightseeing cars is a constant menace to pedestrians along the main routes to Coney Island. It is also a source of anxiety to passengers who sit and picture such accidents as last night's—or worse.

New York has speeding ordinances. Why do the traffic police fail to enforce them against these dangerously driven juggernauts carrying fifty people into danger on every trip?

It is true the sightseeing companies want to make fast time because it means more trips and more profit. But if they are allowed to speed, a serious accident with heavy loss of life is inevitable. Then—too late—the speeding will be barred. The damage will be done.

The detective who thought the Lusk silver service had only a \$60 valuation may have confused the articles with the watch charms which sidewalk artisans hammer out of half dollars and quarters. But he was mistaken.

## CIRCUS FREIGHT RATES.

SEVERAL theatrical managers in New York have closed productions requiring a large cast at the conclusion of the New York run. In other years these would have been profitable ventures on the road. With present railroad rates profitable tours seemed impossible.

Now the circus managers are making a similar complaint against railroad rates, which have more than doubled and in some cases almost tripled. "Circuses and carnival companies," they say, "cannot afford a continuation of the present rates."

There is no indication, however, that rates will be reduced. What will the circus do?

Will it cease to be a part of our national life? Will it change its form and lighten its load to fit the freight charges? Will it turn back toward the old caravan days and furnish its own transportation, travelling on motor trucks instead of by horse-drawn wagons as it did forty years ago?

Or will the circus become an urban attraction, quitting the road and seeking permanent quarters in a large city where patronage will be constant throughout the circus season?

Any marked change in "The Greatest Show on Earth" would be a national loss. The city can provide a substitute, even though it would not be "just as good." But in the towns and villages there is no sport to compare with the fun of "seeing the circus unload," watching the parade, and then witnessing the "stupendous spectacle," &c., as best described by the superlatives of the press.

And if present rates will drive the circus from the rails, where will be the gain to the railroads? Total receipts will decline and the overhead will continue. If the railroads cannot pay the freight, is it anything but another demonstration that rates have passed the point of maximum earnings and must come down before the railroads can hope to earn profits?

## A CHALLENGE.

LAST week forty-nine Texas legislators petitioned the Governor to call a special session of the Legislature to consider an "anti-Ku Klux" law to curb the activities of the "Klan." The petition was inspired by a long series of lawless outrages against blacks and whites who failed to accept the Ku Klux interpretation of social relationship.

The Beaumont local of the organization has replied in a long statement accepting responsibility for two recent "tar parties."

This is a challenge Texas cannot afford to disregard. So long as the "Klan" worked in secret the inaction of the State Government was reprehensible but comprehensible. If Texas fails now to take energetic steps to protect citizens from the "justice" of the "Klan," it will fail to maintain the republican form of government which the Constitution guarantees, and the Federal Government would have good reason for intervening.

There's something in a name after all. The American sloop Bootlegger won the opening race for the Royal St. Lawrence Cup.

## "NOT WHAT THEY USED TO BE."

IF Mrs. Lucy Ostrom of Monticello Village ever has a son, she proposes to "raise him in the city, where it costs \$100 for the same wickedness you can get in a small town for a gallon of gasoline." Mrs. Ostrom is the mother-in-law of Earl Van Nooy, who eloped with Mrs. Clark Durea, wife of a Holiness preacher.

This observation by Mrs. Ostrom may come as a surprise to those who have accepted without question

the orthodox opinion that cities are the silken-webbed fly-traps of the satanic spider.

There is an element of truth in what Mrs. Ostrom says. Cities do provide amusement of one kind and another which the villages lack. And by no means all this amusement is the sort of "wickedness" which Mrs. Ostrom finds in the villages.

But another bit of comment from this disillusioned critic of the small town may well cause us to pause before we of the metropolis accept the palm of virtue she offers.

"The villages are not what they used to be in my day," says Mrs. Ostrom. No—and probably they never were.

"What they used to be" is one of the trickiest and least reliable standards of comparison in common use. It is one of the many variations of the human tendency to find greener pastures on the other side of the fence. The bad features of "in my day" are forgotten. The good live in a rosy haze of memory.

The villages aren't what they used to be. Neither is New York. Probably the balance of good and bad in the world, or in any particular locality, stands fairly even in any one lifetime. Strong characters will remain strong wherever they happen to be, and the Earl Van Nooy will run off with other men's wives whether they happen to live in Monticello or in New York.

## TEMPERANCE VERSUS PROHIBITION.

IN the New York Times yesterday George F. Parker, President of the 1776 Society, predicted the repeal of the Mullan-Gage law in this State within two years. "The repeal of the Volstead law will follow," said he, "and then a new amendment will be framed."

A sanguine prophecy, of which fulfillment should exceed the stated speed limit so far as the Enforcement Acts are concerned, with their oppressive and indefensible overreaching of powers conferred by Amendment 18.

Also presented yesterday, in the editorial section of The World, was an elaborate and well-considered denunciation by James Barnes of Prohibition as it stands in the United States to-day.

A calm survey of Nation-wide conditions reveals the dry laws conglomerate, Mr. Barnes finds, as a promoter of discontent, disorderliness, disrespect for law, irremediable grafting and death by "hooch" poison.

Instead of reducing drunkenness, the law has increased it, while raising the price of the drink. The only thing cut down is the quality of the liquor sold—and that only for the man who cannot afford to pay for the real article.

Mr. Barnes's discoveries and conclusions were by-products of an extensive lecture tour covering several college commencement periods. His standing is that of an able editor, historian and war correspondent, and he is a firm believer in actual temperance.

To make the law practicable for temperance, Mr. Barnes suggests:

"Cut out the foolish and unworkable parts of its application, make the citizen a helpmate and a partner in the law's fulfillment.

"Make it no 'crime' to drink light wines and good beer in public places.

"Make it no 'crime' to dispense it, to make it.

"Stop many of the murderous concoctions of chemicals and acids sold under the name of 'harmless' or 'soft' drinks.

"Stop the dreadful mixture of ethyl alcohol, ether and prune juice called 'whiskey' and often bought as such through the connivance of or by the aid of grafting public servants.

"If treated sensibly, the public will help hunt them down and root out the evil."

In brief, in the treatment of the problem of national sobriety and respect for law, let us prefer the methods of reason and of reasoned control above those of a fanatic, narrow-sighted dictatorship.

As a basic study in the substitution of Temperance for Prohibition, The Evening World recommends again that Quebec statute the effective workings of which it described in its issue of June 11 last.

The Steuben School at River Edge Manor was officially christened over the protest of some of the "100 per cent. American" objectors. The children who will study American history in the school will find that Baron von Steuben served well in the war against the German King who then occupied the British throne. It is to be hoped they will also learn to think logically and independently and govern themselves by reason and not by prejudice.

## TWICE OVERS.

"LET us go to Washington with clean hands; let us get out of Siberia as soon as possible."

—Count Tsuneda Kato, Former Japanese High Commissioner in Siberia.

"I FOUND nothing in the way of the drama abroad that can touch New York and its producers."—Morris Gest.

"I AM in favor of it (disarmament), and so is every sane person I have met."—Lord Northcliffe.

"EUROPE has turned the corner and is faced toward better times."—George E. Roberts, Vice President of National City Bank.

# Can You Beat It!

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By Maurice Ketten



## From Evening World Readers

What kind of a letter do you find most readable? Isn't it the one that gives you the worth of a thousand words in a couple of hundred? There is fine mental exercise and a lot of satisfaction in trying to say much in a few words. Take time to be brief.

### Tax Natural Resources.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

If Judge Gary, in his commencement address at Syracuse University, on the 13th of June last, used the term capital in the sense of wealth (labor products necessary in the production of more wealth, or in giving service), then all his assertions of facts and theories are based on wrong premises.

To begin with, while capital (the child of labor) is necessary in the intensive production of the necessities and luxuries of civilization, yet if labor has free access to nature's sources it will slowly produce enough for immediate consumption and a surplus to be used for further production (capital).

Mr. Gary, as President of the Board of Directors of the U. S. Steel Corporation, ought to know that neither capital nor labor has an open door to natural opportunities.

No one, for instance, can produce steel without paying tribute to Mr. Gary's corporation, which owns almost all the land containing coke, without which no steel can be produced.

Not only is it true in the case of coke, but when and wherever labor and capital wish to produce wealth the lion's share of the intended products is extorted (as rent, royalty or purchasing price) by the 3 per cent. of the population who own 50 per cent. of the natural resources of the country.

Natural resources were made by no man. Any man or body of men who wish to have exclusive possession of a particular resource ought by right to compensate all the people who are excluded, provided this part of nature has a marketable, rentable value.

Further, since this rentable value is almost always created by the aggregation of civilized population and the necessitated public service, therefore this rentable value ought to be collected into the public exchequer, to be expended on the necessary governmental service for the benefit of all the people, who are excluded from and who collectively create the value of this particular resource.

When the Government ceases to give a bad example in legalizing to itself piracy through a tariff and robbery through other confiscatory taxation and abolishes the use of it, it will be compelled to either use it intensively, thus employing labor and capital, or he will let go of this valuable land and let labor and capital use it freely at any charge, since the price of land depends on its rentable value and this will be taken by the Government.

When capital and its producer, labor, are always remuneratively em-

ployed, there will be enough and more than enough wealth.

M. W. NORWALK.

Coney Island, July 20, 1921.

Another Picture.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

The enclosed was suggested by Mr. Gustave Brock's offer to paint a picture of brave Jack Munson for the Hall of Fame.

You will paint Jack Munson's picture. Portray all that's brave and bold in the face of our dead hero.

Neath a wreath of purest gold. You will show him medals wearing. As he was when overseas.

Through the German trenches tearing With our flag flung to the breeze.

To inspire all creation

In a splendid golden frame It will take its honored station In the Nation's Hall of Fame; It will tell the world the story That we merit work well done, And our heroes crown with glory Even though they're dead and gone.

But what of our heroes living. Fighting still a battle grim? What is our great country giving To make life worth while for them? Crippled soldiers, maimed and battered;

Men who fought our homes to save; Sick, neglected, and shattered. Seek a refuge in the grave.

Oh, that you could make this picture Shatter both in mind and body From the war returned, and then Our Government may grasp its meaning.

And do something are too late To save those heroes now careening Weakly toward a pauper's fate!

WILLIAM A. KELLY.

New York, July 20, 1921.

Universal Training and War.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

A subject which ranks among the foremost of the present-day problems is "universal military training." Military training is the most deciding factor in a war. To discredit it must be proved that war is the vilest and most destroying element in human nature, leaving suffering, hate and fear in its wake.

"Men have always fought, they always will fight. You cannot change human nature."

"War is not the worst thing in the world. A righteous war is rather to be chosen than an ignoble peace. There are values more precious in life."

Such are beliefs unquestionably held by the great majority in the nations which dominate the world. In order to abolish war these beliefs must be discarded. They are false, but being firmly held they control conduct, with resulting injury and loss. They inhibit the faith that is necessary to that noble experiment in universal brotherhood the inauguration of a league of peace.

In fact, human nature is on the side of peace. Men who engage in collective homicide do what is nat-

## UNCOMMON SENSE

By John Blake

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### RUB OFF THE RUST.

Rust costs farmers more than blighters, droughts or rats. It costs ship owners more than storms or seamen's strikes.

It costs railroads more than washouts and landslides. And it is always preventable.

If you have ever left a bright new razor blade on a windowsill overnight you have lost the services of that particular razor blade.

If you have ever driven past a badly managed farm you have seen hundreds of dollars' worth of machinery gone to ruin because its owner was too idler to fight rust.

Iron left alone soon becomes worthless. The greatest iron or steel bridge in the world would be worthless in a very few years if it were not coated with red lead at regular intervals.

Every user of machinery must combat rust or go into bankruptcy.

And, by the same token, so must every owner of a brain.

For rust will invade the machine with which you think as rapidly as it will render useless an automobile or a lawn mower.

Constant use and constant care will keep your mental and physical machinery in order.

Stow away all sorts of useful information in your mind, and if you allow that part of your mind to rust the information will rust along with it—rust and become useless.

No mind can keep in condition without constant use. To keep it at its best you must not only think, yourself, but match wits with other thinking men.

Argue with them, disagree with them, debate with them. You may not convince them and they may not convince you, but the good-humored battle of brains will rub the rust off the axle.

Let your mind fall into disuse by thinking only thought, that others have thought, by taking for granted everything you see or hear, and it will soon be unusable.

The men who "go back" are not men who are worked out but men who are rusted out.

The men who are not as good as they used to be are not victims of overwork but of rust.

Keep your mind exercised and it will develop as well as a constantly exercised body.

Let rust from inaction and it will gradually become clogged and worthless.

Rust is expensive always. It is especially expensive in a human being. If it has begun to clog your development, rub it off.

Shave Yourself.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

Your paper should focus its lens on

a class of profiteers that has evidently escaped your notice. I have reference to the barbers. They steadfastly maintain their war prices in spite of reductions made in other lines. In addition one is supposed, or I should have said obliged, to tip the barber. Your paper has the power to agitate for a "shave yourself" movement, to bring these professional consorts to their senses. Let them know that the day is past when they can charge such outrageously high prices for their services.

J. M. C.

# The Pioneers of Progress

By Setozar Tonjoroff

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## XXX.—THE MAN WHO UNLOCKED THE DOOR TO ASIA.

In the time of Christopher Columbus the search for a direct sea route to India was the dream of navigators and of sovereigns.

When Columbus first set eyes on the New World he thought he had made the great discovery for which Captains Adventurous had been groping about since Marco Polo, at the beginning of the fourteenth century, had globe-trotted through the Far East and had told of its wonders.

Five years before Columbus set sail on his eventful voyage from Palos, a Portuguese navigator, Bartolomeu Dias, had discovered the significant fact that it was possible to sail around the southern end of the African continent.

Dias poked his nose around the corner of the sea road to India. Like Moses at a much earlier period, however, he was not destined to set foot in the promised land.

That honor destiny had reserved for a more fortunate countryman of his, Vasco da Gama.

King Manoel of Portugal was the monarch who found the time and the money to capitalize Bartolomeu Dias's discovery.

Manoel appears to have been in the habit of taking chances. He took a chance on da Gama, organized and equipped a flotilla of small ships with lavish generosity, and put Vasco da Gama in command of it in 1497.

Something of the spirit in which da Gama started on his adventure is shown by the fact that one of the incidental purposes of his voyage was a search for Prester John.

Of course, he did not find Prester John, although he heard many glowing accounts of the fabulous wealth and power of this mythical character. He did, however, achieve the solid feat of sailing around the Cape of Good Hope, working up the east coast of Africa and casting anchor in the Bay of Calicut or Calcutta.

The date on which this event came to pass, May 20, 1498, is one of the outstanding dates in the history of the world.

Up to that time India and the Orient in general had been a legend to the European mind. Even Polo's circumstantial narrative had been received with significant tapings on the forehead.

Vasco da Gama transformed the legend into a fact. By turning the key in the door of Asia he made his country an empire.

Under the impulse of his discovery, Portugal reached out for distant possessions, strengthened or established a string of colonies along the African coast as way stations to the desired terminus—the treasure house of India. The empire crumbled of its own weight and under the pressure of rival empires.

The finger of Vasco da Gama also pointed out the course of the teeming commerce that now sweeps back and forth between Europe and Asia—and especially between Great Britain and India—through the Suez Canal.

The Suez Canal was only an improvement on da Gama's achievement. It is still a more direct passage to India.

When da Gama landed at Calcutta, he found the Mohammedan Arabs strongly entrenched there as merchants. The Portuguese were a good share of the treasure of India from the Arabs.

Spain, Great Britain, the Netherlands and France have since struggled, either with Portugal or among themselves for supremacy in the Far East.

And he would be a rash prophet who would predict that there will be no new conflicts over the empire which da Gama opened to the world.

## WHERE DID YOU GET THAT WORD?

55.—FLUKE.

The word "fluke" traces its direct ancestry to the Anglo-Saxon word "flocc," which is first cousin to the leechlike "flocki." There are several kinds of flukes. There is the fish commonly designated in high-priced restaurants as "flot of sole." There is the broad portion of an anchor, the part that does the business of digging into the mud and holding the boat. And there is the happy chance by which a player wins a game.

There is so strong a resemblance in shape between the business end of an anchor and the fish called a fluke that the application of the word to the anchor is perfectly logical.

There is also so strong a resemblance between the awkwardness of the fish called a fluke and the awkwardness of a player who makes a billiard shot by an accident, that such a shot can quite appropriately be described as a "fluke."

## "That's a Fact"

By Albert P. Southwick

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The first English war with China was in 1839. And the same year was the beginning of the Afghan War.

Queen Victoria was married in 1840. She was a widow twenty-one years later.

The penny (2-cent) postage of England commenced on Jan. 10, 1840.

A noted character twenty-five years ago was Francis Schiatter, the self-named "Divine Healer." On June 6, 1877, the following item was received from El Paso, Tex.: "A week ago last Friday, two American mine prospectors found in the foothills of the Sierra Madre on the Puentes Verdias river, thirty-five miles southwest of Casa Grande in the State of Chihuahua, Mexico, all that remained of Francis Schiatter."

In attention was attracted to his "camp" by spying a mangle astride a limb in a dead tree, high up in a gorge through which the river runs. Schiatter's skeleton was found lying stretched out on a blanket close up to the tree. His bones were bleached white and alongside were a copper rod and a miniature baseball bat.